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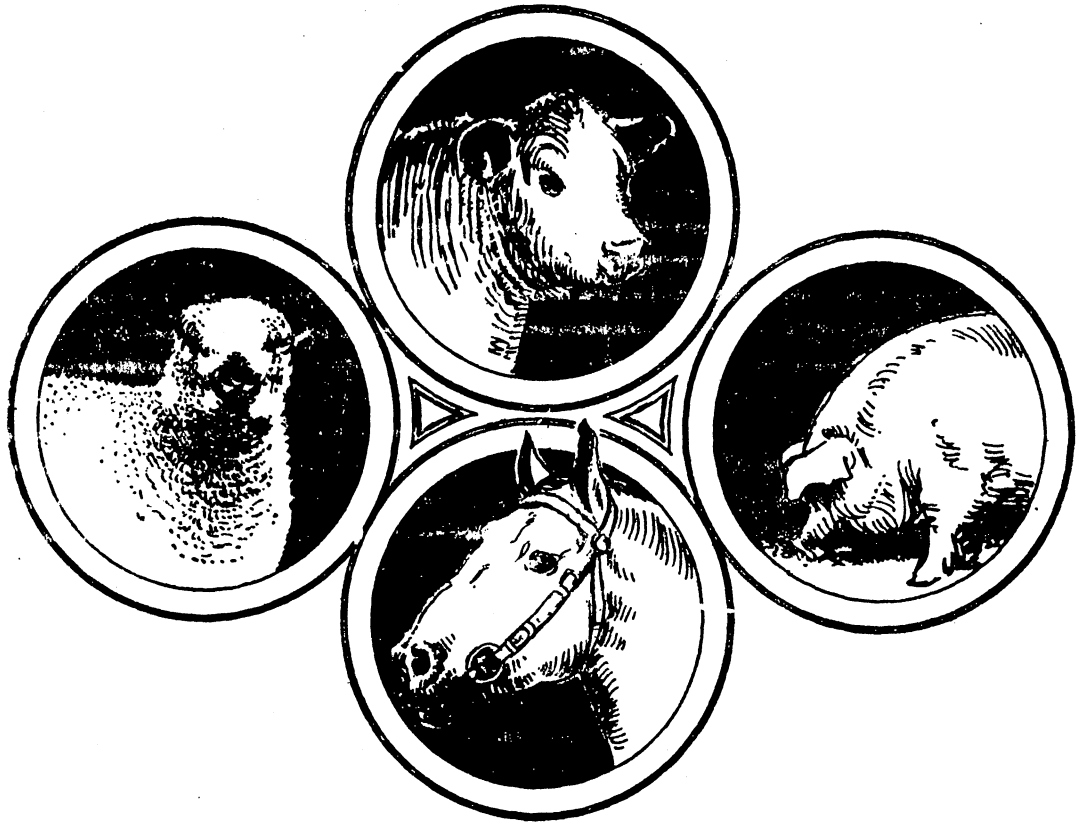
The EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON,
D.C.

Serial No. 22 June, 1931.

CUT IT DOWN

If you have a thing to say,
Cut it down.
Something you must write to-day,
Cut it down.
Let your words be short and few;
Aim to make them clear and true;
Monosyllables will do;
Cut it down.

* * *

Are you writing to the press?
Cut it down.
Make it half or even less,
Cut it down.
Editors like pithy prose,
Lenghty letters are their foes,
Take a hint from "one who knows,"
Cut it down.

Have to make a speech to-night?
Cut it down.
Wish to have it sound all right?
Cut it down.
Do not be a talking bore,
Better far to listen more;
Don't monopolize the floor;
Cut it down.

-Greenville Kleiser

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C.

THE EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN

Issued quarterly by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, Cooperating.
C. D. Lowe, Senior Extension Animal Husbandman.

Serial Number 22 -- -- June, 1931.

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ACTIVITIES OF

LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND WOOL DIVISION

- By -
C. V. Whalin
Principal Marketing Specialist
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
United States Department of Agriculture

- - - - -

Not so long ago the efforts of the livestock industry were devoted very largely to the problems of production. Developments of recent years have made it desirable that the livestock producer who would be most successful must use in his operations all essential economic facts concerning supply, consumer preference and demand, prices, price trends, costs, grades, world situation, industrial and business conditions, outlook, and many other fundamental factors having an influence on his business. This puts him not only in the field of production but also in the field of merchandizing. His business is not unlike that of the manufacturer and distributor of other major commodities.

It is especially important that livestock producers know as much about the economic conditions which tend to determine the price of their product as do the buyers of livestock and those who process and distribute livestock products. Many industrial groups have their own service organizations manned by technical and economic experts who collect and evaluate all information affecting their particular activities. Agricultural groups, because of their disorganized condition and the costs involved, have not been so fortunate in this respect. It is in an attempt to provide such service to the livestock industry that the Livestock, Meats, and Wool Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics was organized and is functioning. When the nucleus of the division was established in 1914, activities were confined to investigations of the methods, practices, and costs of marketing livestock, meats, and wool. Its duties now may be divided into three separate but interdependent lines, namely, research, extension, and service.

The major fact-finding service unit of the division is

the livestock, meats, and wool market news service. Trained market reporters are stationed at 25 of the principal markets gathering, analyzing and disseminating information as to supply, movement, demand, and prices of livestock, meats and wool, each market day. One wool market, Boston, is reported in this manner. This market is recognized as the key market of the wool trade in the United States.

Wool and mohair prices are influenced by the world situation and the performance relating to these commodities in other markets. Therefore, in addition to the facts gathered on the Boston market, the bureau collects from other available sources essential information on world wool markets and relates them to domestic situations. The combined information is utilized in the preparation of semi-annual outlook reports and the more frequent price situation reports as well as the daily and weekly wool market reports.

Since the prices and price trends of the various kinds and grades of livestock are based and depend upon the prices received for the various kinds and grades of meats and other products derived from them the livestock producer should have all the information he can get on the trends of consumer demand and preference so that his production and marketing program in so far as possible may be adjusted to bring the maximum return. The meat market reporting service was inaugurated to serve that purpose. While it is somewhat difficult for many stockmen to visualize and appraise its value and usefulness and to apply it to their operations, it is fundamental in bringing to light the underlying factors influencing the values of livestock. Thus far, the markets of five basic consuming centers, namely, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco, are being covered as the basis of this service.

Maximum service to livestock producers also includes service to those from whom the information on meats is collected. In this group are retail dealers, jobbers, wholesalers, and packers of meats. Not only are the meat trade reports disseminated freely among these groups but the information also is "flashed" across the country over leased wires to the principal livestock markets where it is used in dealings between commission men and slaughterers. This service therefore acts somewhat as a stabilizer of livestock prices by turning the spotlight on strategic points. This has a tendency to clear the marketing channels from the producer all the way to the ultimate consumer.

The data gathered as desbribed above also are assembled, correlated and analyzed with comparable livestock data and are used as the background for the preparation of material on the livestock and meat situations appearing in outlook reports and for other purposes.

There is another little known meat market reporting service which we perform. It is the retail meat market news service. Data from this field in the past have been mostly used by economists and market analysts. Only recently has this information been given wider distribution. Retail market price data are based on the standard grades as used in quoting the wholesale meats and livestock markets. They also are classified as to type of store, kind of service, etc. Retail price data are now collected at New York Cit, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago. Thus far public releases reflect prices in New York and Chicago. This service when fully expanded will make possible a complete price series from the central livestock markets to the consumer's plate.

Next we come to the livestock market news service, which is better known to producers than our meat market service. Most producers are inclined not to go far into the factors which fix the prices on their livestock and therefore give little thought to the market conditions affecting meats in the major consuming centers or to the final arbiter of all, the consumer.

Our livestock reports carry information on trading conditions existing at livestock markets, emphasizing such factors as supply, demand, prices and price trends. These reports, when the occasion warrants, also point out the causes of price changes by referring to changes in the meat trade.

Livestock markets reported are much more numerous than those from which meat or wool data are collected. They are Chicago, E. St. Louis, St. Paul, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Omaha, Sioux City, Wichita, Fort Worth, Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Nashville, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Jersey City, New York, Boston, Lancaster, and Des Moines. The service at the point last mentioned is the only departure from the central market reporting scheme. It reflects the trading in direct marketing of hogs, particularly in Iowa and southern Minnesota, and has fully justified itself in the short time that it has been in operation.

Market news is of little value unless it gets to the man for whom it is intended --- the one who can use it in his operations. Every available means is used to get the information to the stockman. During the trading season hourly bulletins are posted in exchanges, scale houses, and other places where stockmen, commission men, and buyers congregate. These bulletins show the supply and other market conditions not only on that particular market but on other primary markets that may have an influence on the trading at the local market. Mimeographed reports depicting market conditions are distributed by direct mail to many thousand producers. The livestock and daily press give these reports wide dissemination on their market pages. Ticker services use them. Leased wires carry the information as it becomes available to centers of interest from one end of the country to the other. Commercial telegraph facilities are resorted to by many who want more prompt service. Special nominal monthly rates are given by telegraph companies for this daily service.

The most rapid means of disseminating market news is the radio. More than a hundred broadcasting stations throughout the country lend their facilities for this purpose. In many instances the broadcasting is done directly from the offices of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in the livestock exchange buildings.

Another service, more commercial in character, is the grading of meats according to standard specifications. This service had its beginning in the preparation of standards for meats for use in the market news service and in applying them to purchases made by the U. S. Shipping Board and other Government agencies. This attracted the attention of the trade and demands were made that similar service be extended to include purely commercial transactions. This expression of interest soon developed into the beef grading and stamping service. The Better Beef Association, an organization of cattle breeders and feeders with the aim of stimulating the demand for the better grades of beef and for the improvement of beef cattle generally, aided in the movement. It was sponsored later by the National Live Stock and Meat Board with which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is now cooperating in a rapidly growing commercial service in this field. Grading of meats is not compulsory but is done on a request basis for a fee of $2 an hour per grader for commercial interests and at cost to Government institutions. In addition to the foregoing, two other lines of work have developed, namely, the monthly report on stocks of meat in storage, and the annual report of purebred livestock prices.

The research units assemble, correlate, and analyze the data collected from the field by our own organization and also that available from all other sources, and use them in analyses and interpretations of the livestock, meat and wool situations. The results are issued in regular and special reports, radio talks, bulletins, outlook reports, etc.

None of our work could be of its greatest usefulness if it were not for the standards which have been set up and which provide a common language for the exchange and dissemination of economic information, particularly descriptions of what the buyer wants or the producer has to sell, as well as of prices and price trends. It is a requirement of the law under which the market news service is conducted that markets must be reported by uniform grades. Standards have therefore been developed for livestock, meats, and wool. Such standards are first put on trial for a few years as tentative grades. When their adaptability and usefulness have been satisfactorily demonstrated they are recommended as official standards. The fact that standards are official implies no obligation on the part of the trade to use them. In other words, they are permissive and not compulsory. However, they are compulsory in governmental references and activities.

The grades of meat were formulated first. They were then correlated with the quality of the animals from which such meats were derived. By that means the livestock grades were developed. Official standards have been promulgated for beef, veal, lamb, and mutton and for cattle, calves, and vealers. Tentative grade standards for other livestock and meats also have been issued. Likewise, official grades have been promulgated for wool and tentative standards have been prepared for mohair, hides and skins. Both domestic and international grades have been worked out for wool. Both are definitely identified with diameter of fiber only.

These various activities provide a wealth of material for extension and other educational purposes. In cooperation with the Office of Cooperative Extension Work we provide one specialist who spends about 10 months of the year in the field in contacting State extension services. It is his duty to extend the results of our work to the grower, by demonstrations and otherwise in cooperation with the State extension workers. Other specialists are made available on demand so far as their other duties will permit.

The specific forms in which our current information on livestock, meats, and wool marketing is available to extension workers and how and when it may be obtained are outlined below.

Daily and weekly Livestock, Meat or Wool Market News information at any of the field or market offices of the Division, or on application to the Division at Washington; special economic, statistical, standardization, and market information material, including outlook and situation reports, from the Division at Washington, also through the Office of Cooperative Extension Work. Inquiries and requests for livestock grading demonstrations in cooperation with State extension workers may be taken up also through the same agencies.

FEDERAL MEATS SPECIALIST ASSIGNED

Effective July 1, the part-time services of K. F. Warner, animal husbandman in meat investigations, will become available in aiding the States with their meat extension programs. A cooperative agreement between the Office of Cooperative Extension Work and the Bureau of Animal Industry is responsible for this additional specialist. Mr. Warner's duties and relationships will be similar to those of other subject-matter specialists of the Department. In addition to giving assistance on the older type of "live-at-home" meat programs Mr. Warner will aid in bringing to the attention of livestock raisers the relationship between meat quality and production practices.

POLAR CONDITIONS

A new farm hand from the city one wintry morning was told to go to the barn and harness the mule. In the dark he tackled one of the milk cows by mistake. Wondering what was causing the delay the farmer shouted to inquire.

"I can't get the collar over his head," replied the green hand, "His ears are frozen." -- Wallace's Farmer.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STATES

Connecticut

Wilfred B. Young has been appointed extension animal husbandman to succeed L. V. Tirrell, who resigned some time ago.

Idaho

E. F. Rinehart, livestock specialist, has been substituting for Prof. C. W. Hickman, head of the animal husbandry department at the University of Idaho, for the last six months while Professor Hickman took some advanced work at the University of Nebraska.

L. B. Taylor is now assistant to Mr. Rinehart in livestock extension work.

Illinois

At present (April 20), we have on the list of the Illinois Honor Roll Swine Raisers the names of 1,725 men in 52 counties. An indication of what can be done is shown by the record in Iroquois County where the county agent, C. E. Johnson, held 18 local hog-feeding schools with a total attendance of 202, of whom 107 signed the enrollment cards in this project. -- E. T. Robbins.

Kentucky

State extension representatives from nine States attended a native lamb improvement conference at Lexington on May 21. Sheep and general animal husbandry specialists who attended were:

J. W. Burch of Missouri, B. F. Creech of West Virginia, Claude Harper of Indiana, L. A. Kauffman of Ohio, James Lacey of Wisconsin, D. H. LaVoi of Michigan, K. E. Litton of Virginia, C. W. McDonald of Iowa, and R. C. Miller of Kentucky. Others present were J. D. Harper of the National Live Stock Marketing Association, L. B. Mann of the Federal Farm Board and R. Q. Smith of the Cincinnati agency of the National Producers Association.

The meeting was made possible through the aid of certain commercial agencies which have provided awards to counties and States during the past two years in the native lamb improvement project. Means and agencies in promoting the work and uniformity in requirements for all the States concerned were the principal matters discussed. Also a committee was appointed for the purpose of revising the rules for 1932.

Louisiana

Demonstrations to prove the importance of controlling internal parasites in workstock were arranged for in 1930. The plan called for soliciting the cooperation of local veterinarians, and inducing a limited number of plantation owners to inaugurate the practice of having their work stock treated for parasites twice a year. The treatment used was to be in accordance with the recommendations of the veterinarian of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

A form was prepared calling for: History of work stock, feed report before demonstration, water supply, general sanitary conditions, health of work stock before and after demonstration started. The county agent, local veterinarian, and experiment station veterinarian were supplied with copies after the obtainable data were recorded.

One hundred sixty-two mules and ten horses on sugar plantations were involved in the initial effort. Fourteen of these animals were under 7 years of age, 83 between 7 and 12 years, and 75 over 12 years. It was found that the feed lots had been in use for from 30 to over 50 years. There were animals in each lot that could not be depended on for a full day's work, and some of them were listed as regular colic patients. On a plantation working 67 mules, one or more cases of colic a week had to be treated. After the parasitic treatment, ailments of this nature practically disappeared. A neighboring plantation owner noticed these results and adopted the practice without having to be solicited.

On another plantation, working 58 mules, the owner selected six of his best looking mules and six of the poorest ones. These were weighed separately and treated. They were worked in harvesting for 30 days and re-weighed. The six best looking mules showed an average gain of 33 pounds, and the six poorest gained an average of 110 pounds each. This plantation owner made a statement to the effect that he would not have been able to harvest his crop if the mules had not been treated for internal parasites.

All of the demonstrations gave encouraging results, and the field of activities along this line has been extended so as to include localities in the cotton section. -- M. M. LaCroix.

Mississippi

Paul F. Newell, extension animal husbandman, has been granted twelve weeks leave of absence and is devoting the period to graduate work at the Iowa State College.

Missouri

A conference was held at the National Stock Yards, East St. Louis, Ill., on May 5, in an effort to standardize lamb grading and marking methods at local shipping points in the East St. Louis market territory.

L. B. Burk and M. T. Foster, of the Washington office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, presented the suggested grades that the U. S. Department of Agriculture had worked out. After a thorough discussion of lamb-grading work and on a motion by C. W. McDonald, of Iowa, it was agreed to use six grades in the territory tributary to the St. Louis market. These grades and their designations are: Prime lambs, designated by a blue ring on the head; good and choice lambs, a red ring on the head; medium lambs, a green ring on the head; common and cull lambs, a black ring on the head. Fat buck lambs, comprising several grades, were grouped together and designated by a yellow ring on the head. It will be noted that it was the opinion of the conference that for practical use in the country it would be better to combine the good and choice grade lambs into one group and give them one mark and to do the same for the common and cull lambs, putting them together in one group and selling them together. It was thought advisable to separate the fat buck lambs from the others, give them a different mark and let them sell on their merits. It was believed advisable by those present that the six grades proposed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture be retained. The grouping of choice and good and common and cull will be practiced until market demand requires more refinement or further segregation.

The St. Louis Stock Yards Company was host and arranged the meeting place. After a short meeting in the morning those in attendance went to the sheep yards and under the direction of Burk and Foster handled lambs of the various grades and familiarized themselves with the finish necessary for a lamb to qualify for a particular grade.

After a noonday lunch supplied by Swift & Co. a study was made of the carcass grades used by this company.

Those in attendance were Burk and Foster of Washington,

Robbins of Illinois, McDonald of Iowa, Miller of Kentucky, Muldrow of Arkansas, Ewing, Garlock, and Burch of Missouri, seven county agents from Missouri and eight from Illinois.

Valuable assistance was given by H. G. Timberlake of the St. Louis Stock Yards Company, Ernie Edwards, sheep buyer for Swift & Co., B. C. Relgen, sheep buyer for Armour and Co., Oscar White, sheep salesman for the Producers Commission Company, J. J. Kelly, sheep salesman for the Farmers Commission Co., H. L. Powell, Secretary of the Livestock Exchange, and W. W. Fuqua, Vice-President of the Producers Commission Association.

-- J. W. Burch.

Nebraska

Edward Janike was appointed assistant animal husbandry specialist on April 4, vice Paul McDill who resigned March 31.

Ohio

J. W. Wuichet is now chairman of the animal husbandry extension group. L. P. McCann is now acting as State leader in the horse project as well as in beef cattle.

Mr. McCann recently assisted in the selection of 500 head of yearling Hereford cattle (200 heifers and 300 steers), in Texas and Kansas for the City of Akron. They will be used on an area recently purchased for a water storage reservoir but which will not be needed for ten years or more.

Pennsylvania

L. C. Madison, swine specialist has been sojourning in France and other European countries on a combination business and pleasure trip for several weeks.

South Carolina

After four years of hog-feeding demonstrations and cooperative hog shipments, we are able to measure some progress. Increased numbers of farmers feeding and shipping hogs, better quality and better finished hogs, lower feed requirements and a higher

average of prices all evidence substantial improvement. The following table is a summary of the completed records of feeding demonstrations which have reached this office:

Year	No. demon.	No. hogs	Gain per hog (lbs.)	Bu. corn per cwt. gain (lbs.)	Protein supplement per 100 lbs. gain (lbs.)
1927	44	414	43.3	6.09	31.6
1928	127	2193	65.5	5.9	21.6
1929	104	1474	80.0	5.7	23.5
1930	72	1521	96.69	5.32	25.8

(Ton-litter demonstrations not included)

Our policy of placing demonstrations with new farmers each year precludes as great efficiency as might otherwise be possible, but seems the right method of re-establishing confidence in the hog industry. Low yields of corn during 1928 and 1929 considerably reduced the number of hogs fed and marketed during those seasons and also resulted in many hogs being marketed before they had been well finished.

The following comparison of cooperative shipments from Sumter County gives some indication of the effect on the net price resulting from improvement in quality, finish, and the time of marketing:

Year	No. shippers	No. hogs	Average weight (lbs.)	Average net price per cwt.
1928	113	1359	189	$8.03
1929	209	1488	164	9.43
1930	224	1480	180	9.69

During 1930 farmers numbering 2523 shipped 341 cars of hogs cooperatively. These hogs brought a total of $435,054.37 net above expenses.

Considerable misgivings have been felt by some that hog feeding and shipping would suffer a meterial backset when a period of low prices was encountered. That contingency has now arisen and the opposite condition appears to obtain. Increased plantings of corn and forage crops are being made. Breeding animals are in greater demand than any time during the past eight years so that it now appears that hogs are "contributing oil for the lamp of diversification."

-- J. R. Hawkins.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY EXTENSION IN TEXAS

By

A. L. Smith, Extension Animal Husbandman

- - - -

Of the 254 counties in Texas, 184 have county agents. These men form the backbone of our animal husbandry extension work. To serve these agents and the State at large are the extension animal husbandman who is in charge of beef cattle, sheep and goats, the swine husbandman, E. M. Regenbrecht, and the meat specialist, Roy W. Snyder. In addition, W. R. Nisbet and John H. Jones, agents in animal husbandry, who are joint employees of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, the Texas Experiment Station and the Texas Extension Service, work in cooperation with the extension program. Mr. Nisbet is engaged in ranch organization and management work, especially in the Edwards Plateau Region. Mr. Jones is concerned with general livestock problems in the area recently released from cattle-fever-tick quarantine and is devoting much of his time to the feeding problems of the State.

It has been the policy of each member of this group to work more or less independently but plans for the future call for closer cooperation. It is believed that money and time can be saved and better service rendered the State if each is conversant with the work and plans of the other. In view of the size of Texas it is manifestly impossible for each specialist to cover the entire State. There is no section without livestock and the problems and opportunities for work which accompany them. Many of our county agents are trained and experienced animal husbandmen; others lack special livestock training and experience and have some hesitancy in making contact with stockmen. Such men want help at various times and it is with this group of agents that the specialists spend most time.

Our work is based on result demonstrations for which the county agents are responsible. We render assistance wherever needed, but do not attempt to perform the agent's work for him. Campaign methods are seldom employed, but we recognize their value. Four-H club feeding demonstrations conducted along lines

of commercial farm practice have been successful in removing farm feeding from the reputed fad class of farm operations.

We have two types of 4-H club feeding demonstrations. One may be termed fitting for show, which is valuable from one standpoint. The other is practical farm feeding for market. The fancier type of feeding will be encouraged only in those sections which have superior breeding stock and where the work is already popular. Practical farm feeding or the utilization of farm-produced roughages and grains will be stressed in the feed-producing areas of the State.

Extension animal husbandry programs include the following demonstrations:

1. Breeding
   (a) Proved sires for beef production
   (b) Selection and culling.

2. Feeding
   (a) Utilization of pastures and home grown roughages and concentrates
   (b) Creep feeding
   (c) Supply of mineral supplements
   (d) Trench silos.

3. Management
   (a) Control of parasites and diseases
   (b) Range maintenance
   (c) Castrating, dehorning, and docking.

The production of pork on Texas farms has not kept pace with increased consumption resulting from a rapidly increasing urban population. Whenever cotton prices are low the farmers, as a rule, reduce acreages and the acreage thus released is largely planted to corn and grain sorghums. Hogs provide a most attractive market for these feeds, and therefore demonstrations along this line have been and are being urged. The extension program for swine involves all phases of production, feeding, sanitation, and management.

Our meats program involves demonstrations in farm killing, curing and canning, and the presentation of newer meats education to retailers, as well as to housewives. The farm program was begun with work on pork. Demonstrations were held in convenient

locations to which as many as five county and home demonstration agents were invited. Each agent was provided with a side of pork to cut. Both killing and cutting were stressed at these meetings. In addition producers were shown what was under the hide in regard to carcass, grade, and market classification. Attention was also called to the ravages of parasites. Then, if possible, the agent was assisted with one demonstration in his county. However, it was found that after one day's schooling most agents could conduct creditable demonstrations.

This work was concentrated in an area of which Lubbock is the approximate center. As a result the Lubbock Ham and Bacon Show was held March 27 and 28, in which were exhibited 112 hams, 47 shoulders, 71 bacons, 91 entries of lard, and 712 entries of canned meat from 12 counties. This was the largest collection and show of such products that has ever been exhibited in Texas.

The educational meats program carried before the housewives and other consumers of the towns and cities included cutting demonstrations only. In this the use, value and quality of meats was stressed. As a part of this phase, special meetings were held with packers, packer salesmen, and retail butchers.

The meats work has aroused much interest throughout the State and has brought added support to our livestock production program.

HOW CROSSING IMPROVES A BREED

"And how much would you say this colt was worth?" asked the railroad claim agent of the farmer.

"Not a cent less than $500," emphatically declared that sturdy son of the soil.

"Pedigreed stock, I suppose?"

"Well, no," the bereaved admitted reluctantly. "But you never could judge a colt like that by its parents."

"No," the attorney agreed dryly. "I've often noticed how crossing it with a locomotive will improve a breed."

- Progressive Farmer.

"The scientist advances knowledge, his interpreter advances the world."

HAWAIIAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Animal husbandry is considered a big industry in Hawaii. The approximate value of the Territory's livestock is around $11,600,000. The annual production of meat and dairy products for local consumption reaches around $5,250,000. There are about 43,000 hogs valued at $645,000. The beef cattle now number about 140,000 head with a value of $1,850,000 and dairy animals 12,000 head with an aggregate value of $1,800,000. The cattle industry furnishes about $3,840,000 worth of beef, and $1,411,000 worth of milk, cheese, and butter annually. The latter item includes over 14,000,000 quarts of milk valued alone at $1,400,000.

Agricultural Imports to Hawaii
(Year Ended December 1930)

	Articles	From the United States	From foreign countries	Total val of all impor
1.	Poultry products, including meat, eggs in shell, and live poultry	$ 923,564	$ 31,598	$ 955,162
2.	Hog products-including meat and live hogs	1,366,617	19,723	1,386,340
3.	Beef products -including meat and live cattle	426,181	288,876	715,057
4.	Dairy products -including milk, butter and cheese	1,686,045	354,098	2,040,143
5.	Misc. meat products - including lamb, mutton, and live sheep	298,162	54,560	352,722
	Totals	$4,700,569	$748,855	$5,449,424

-- From 1931 Plan of Work, Hawaii.

A POLICY

"We are not seeking to produce more crops or less crops. We are not seeking more farmers or less farmers. We are seeking a balance of agricultural production which will make our country self-sustaining and permit that production to be sold at a profit to those who produce it." -- Secretary Hyde.

COLT CLUBS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Colts are again to be seen on many farms. Interest in draft horses is being aroused and the necessity for more colts to replace the old horses is being realized.

Considerable interest and friendly rivalry has developed as a result of the formation of the Keystone Gold Medal Colt Club in 13 counties. The object of this club is to show the value of care, breeding, and liberal feeding in the development of draft horses. In three of these counties two clubs were organized with the result that there were 16 Gold Medal Colt Clubs started.

More than 200 colts were entered and a majority finished. In this colt club, colts are weighed as weanlings at about county fair time and are carried along for a year and weighed and judged. Colts gaining 600 pounds or over and placing over colts of less gain are entitled to a gold medal. Colts gaining 500 pounds and less than 600 pounds get a silver medal provided they place over colts gaining less than 500 pounds. Colts making a gain of 400 pounds and less than 500 pounds get a bronze medal. Should a colt making only a gain of 500 pounds and less than 600 pounds place over a colt making a gain of 600 pounds or over, the colt gaining the 600 pounds or more will get only a silver medal since he can not get a higher medal than the colt that won over him.

* *

The shows this fall brought out for display 22 colts that won gold medals, 10 that won silver medals, and 25 that won bronze medals. This is the actual number of medals awarded but the number of colts that would have been entitled to medals will run much higher. Only one medal goes to a breeder and in many cases a breeder had two or three or more colts entitled to medals yet he only received one medal. A large number of colts fell below the 400 pound gain for a year and would not be in line for a medal. In all cases where this occurred it was due to shortage of pasture and feed. In all counties where clubs are now going they have weighed in this year's foals and are pointing for next year's show. One new county joined up for the project this fall and will hold their first show and round-up next fall.

— From Pennsylvania Annual Report-1930.

NORTH DAKOTA PUREBRED SIRE EXCHANGE

By

Geo. J. Baker, Extension Animal Husbandman.

In our livestock improvement project in North Dakota, purebred sire work plays a prominent part. Large numbers of grade and scrub sires still are used on the farms of the State. In addition, many of these sires are of poor type and conformation.

Demonstrations on the market grades and classes of beef cattle have created considerable interest in this field. Many good, tired purebred sires having served their period of usefulness in their original herds and flocks will be sold over the block for meat unless methods are provided to bring about an exchange between breeders. It is with these points in mind that we have been for some time conducting sales for the distribution and exchange of purebred sires in cooperation with the State livestock breeders' association.

It is believed that the purebred sire project should be a continuous everyday project in every county of the State. While considerable purebred sire campaign work has been done in this State, it is thought that the most constructive and effective work is where farmers, who are using scrub or grade sires, talk the matter over with the county agent or some other individual and as a result decides to secure the type of purebred sire or sires adapted for the particular needs of his farm. Knowing that this requires a great deal of time on the part of the county agent other supplemental methods of purebred sire work have been adopted.

In North Dakota, through the cooperation of the North Dakota Livestock Breeders' Association, district and county livestock breeders' associations, and the extension service, several district purebred livestock sales have been organized. The general plan and method of managing these sales must be approved by all the cooperating agencies. A large number of purebred sires have been purchased at these sales year after year.

In our office an attempt has been made to keep a record of

the sires in use in the herds and flocks of the principal breeders of the State. We know that as a general rule, many of these sires after being used as long as they should be in one herd or flock, are sent to the block. Our efforts are an attempt to rectify this error and bring about as many exchanges of these older sires between breeders as possible. In the case of dairy bulls, for example, it isn't known just how well a sire is transmitting milking qualities to his daughters until they are in milk. A sire is then four or five years of age and, in many cases, already sent to the block. If a sire is producing heifers of good conformation and good milking qualities, he should certainly be continued in use in some herd rather than having an untried sire used in his place. The same principle applies in the breeding of beef cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. The tried sires which are producing the right kind of offspring should be continued in service as long as possible. It is for this reason that the system of sire exchanges has been inaugurated.

Having a list of the principal livestock breeders in the State and also the names and registration numbers of the principal sires in use, and having these listed on cards, it is a simple matter to suggest a suitable exchange of sires when a breeder has to make a change. As a rule, livestock breeders have a good aged sire for sale or exchange when they are looking for a new one. It is a known fact that when a tried sire of merit is put into a consignment or district sale, that the owner usually makes a heavy sacrifice as such sires often sell for much less than their true value. When such a sire is sold in a consignment sale and the man who sells him buys a young sire in his place, he usually pays considerable more money than he gets for the old sire and instead of getting a tried sire he gets a sire whose breeding qualities are still unknown.

Rather than use this expensive method of livestock improvement, breeders are encouraged to make exchanges of their tried sires as far as possible. Where beef sires are of about the same weight and show about the same quality and breeding, even trade is suggested. With dairy sires, where the butterfat records of their dams are about the same and the individuality of the animal is about the same, an even exchange is indicated. In all cases, strict attention is given to the matter of contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis and abortion.

As the county extension agent, extension animal husbandman,

and others go about the county and State in their regular work, livestock breeders call their attention to the fact that they are ready to make a sire exchange or perhaps indicate they wish to sell a sire and buy a new one. This often leads to a sire exchange. It often happens while representatives of the different agencies concerned are inspecting livestock to go into the district sales that a breeder will wish to consign an old sire to the sale. He is frankly told that old sires usually do not sell well in sales and perhaps be referred to another breeder, who, like himself, is in position to make an exchange. Under such circumstances a little follow-up work by correspondence and possible a visit, usually results in an exchange especially if the breeders can inspect the sires.

The importance of a record card in the office giving the name and address of the breeder together with the name of the herd sire, with a few notes concerning his breeding, is apparent. Many cases are on record where exchanges of this kind have been made and many others have been made through individual correspondence, such as the following:

A breeder writes to us stating that he has a four-year-old beef bull for sale, giving the name, number, and general description of the animal. In the same letter he also says that he wishes to purchase a young bull. By referring to the index cards, several references are sent to him of other breeders who wish to make similar sales and purchases. Very often visits will be made, even though the distance is considerable, to see sires which have been located in this manner. It is felt that office records of this kind bring about great financial saving in sire exchange work as well as in providing other useful information for livestock improvement programs.

It may also be mentioned that when there seems to be no purchase demand for a certain sire at our district sales he is put back into his stall. An effort is then made to arrange an exchange if the owner is agreeable. Many are brought about in this way.

In a number of counties of the State, sire exchange days are held at which time aged sires and others may be brought to a certain location such as a fair ground, for exhibition and exchange. Sometimes an auctioneer is employed and sometimes a committee of breeders assists with the exchanges. Most of thes exchange days

have been held in connection with rams. In some cases there is a show in connection with the event. Only rams which are for exchange or sale may be entered. As they are placed in the ring the judge calls attention to the desirable qualities of the animals in making the placings. This is of assistance to prospective purchasers and others who wish to secure rams by exchange. When sires are brought to such places for sale or exchange, a small fee is charged to take care of the expense for feed, bedding, and so forth in connection with the event.

During 1930, the exchange of 3,261 sires was brought about. Two thousand, one hundred and fourteen farmers benefited by these exchanges.

It is our purpose to continue to call the attention of all our agents to the importance of conserving good, tried sires by the use of these sales and exchanges.

PORK AND POETRY

(The following occupied the first page of Mr. Shay's 1930 annual report on swine extension work in North Carolina - C.D.L.)

IF

(With abject apologies to Kipling)

If you insist on planting only cotton,
And chop and tend it in the blazing sun,
And then find out next fall the price is rotten,
And suffer no regret for what you've done;
Or, if tobacco lures you into gambling,
If when the weed is cured the price is low,
And creditors around your farm are ambling -
If one of them should say: "I TOLD YOU SO!"

If you can calmly watch your "lucky" neighbor
Ship off two cars of hogs for ready cash,
And fail to see that you've done something foolish,
Nor feel the dread of close impending smash;
If you can keep on grinning through these trials,
And keep the disposition of a lamb,
You'll show that common sense wins over smiles,
And - which is more - you'll prove yourself a ham!

-- W. W. Shay, Raleigh, N.C.

PROMOTING A MEATS PROGRAM

By Hector McDonald,
Extension Animal Husbandman, Washington State College.

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Prime and common or inferior beef, lamb, and pork on the hoof, in sides and retail cuts, all were shown in a unique demonstration to teach 1100 Washington 4-H club boys and girls how to appreciate quality in meat, at the ninth annual club camp at the college last summer. The program of instruction was carried out by Kenneth Jones and Alta Fox, county extension workers.

Most of the youngsters expressed their preference for cuts from the prime animals exhibited on foot, but many could not detect the difference in the cuts on the retail table, and a few were unable to tell lamb chops from pork chops.

"Why" is Shown

Using the live animals, charts, and carcasses, Mr. Jones was able to demonstrate the correlation that exists between the well-bred, finished animal on foot, and the tender, tasty attractive cuts that these animals yield.

The contrast between the prime lamb, old canner ewe, prime baby beef, and canner cow was very distinct--between the animals on foot, in the carcass and in retail cuts on the table. A prime barrow on foot and in the carcass was also used in the demonstration.

Steaks and roasts from the canner were readily recognized by the yellow fat, dark-colored, coarse-grained lean, which was noticeably lacking in marbling, or inter-sprinkling of fat within the lean.

The prime baby beef on the other hand, was bright red, almost pink, well marbled, and covered with a clear, white tallow. The ribs and vertebra bones were reddish in color and appeared much different than the bones of the old cow. All of the baby-beef cuts were plump, resembling in outline the breast of a quail, but the cuts from the dairy-bred canner cow were shrunken and shriveled.

Pork More Uniform

The main distinguishing features between lamb and mutton were equally well illustrated. Mr. Jones stated that there was not so much spread in the quality of pork as in the quality of beef and mutton offered for sale in the retail shop.

Miss Fox concluded the demonstration by explaining the application of the culinary art ot the tender and less tender cuts. Especially did she emphasize the fact that fat improves the cooking qualities of meat, makes meat more tender, juicy, and palatable.

Eighty-five per cent of the consumer's demand is for 25 per cent of the cuts. This is because the housewife, who is generally the purchasing agent in the home, is most familiar with a few choice cuts and in many cases if she does order the less tender cuts, she and the family are disappointed because the right method of cookery is not applied.

Cooking Poorer Cuts

The general method for cooking the less tender and less expensive cuts involves the use of moist heat. First sear the meat in a small quantity of fat until it is browned. After browning, reduce the cooking temperature, add a small quantity of water, and cover the meat tightly. Cook slowly until tender. Meat from the less-tender cuts is also excellent when ground and used in various ways.

For tender cuts, the best method of cooking is to sear the meat at a high temperature for a short time until a brown coating is formed, then reduce the temperature and finish cooking at moderate heat. Do not cover the meat and do not add water.

Later Developments

As a result of the initial effort last year, meat has been adopted as one of the major food projects in our extension nutrition program. Arrangements have also been made to put on a large number of meetings during the present year in which meat cookery, especially the preparation of the less expensive fore-quarter cuts, will be an important part.

The animal husbandman will cooperate in some of these meetings in teaching more about the selection of meat and the identification of quality. Cooperation has also been effected with several home demonstration agents for demonstrations before women's clubs and other organized groups in which emphasis will be placed on the factors to consider in selecting and purchasing meat.

Another outgrowth of this work is the establishment of a meats-judging contest which is to be held at the State fair at Yakima in September.

Farmers of Iowa slaughter on the average for home consumption approximately 800,000 head of hogs, 171,200 head of cattle and 37,300 head of sheep each year.

-- From 1931 Iowa Plan of Work.

A SWINE PLAN OUTLINE

1 - Build better producing herds through selection for type and production.

2 - Reduce losses through sanitation and care.

3 - Feed for more rapid and more economical gains.

4 - Work for better planned production and marketing.

-- From Iowa Plan of Work, 1931.

A GOOD SLOGAN

"Dock or be docked," is the slogan adopted by the sheepmen of Montmorency County, Michigan.

Livestock must be the great balancers in American agriculture, a bulwark against drought disaster, against soil depletion, and against agricultural waste. -- E. W. Sheets in 1930 American Year Book.

A COUNTY BEEF PRODUCTION CONTEST

By

Wayland Rhoads, Kentucky Field Agent in Animal Husbandry

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The beef-cattle feeders of Union County, Ky., have for the past two years engaged in a beef-production contest of their own. These men wanted to know more about the finishing of cattle on grass on their own farms. To make the contest more interesting they put up their own prize money, each man donating $2.50 for each carload entered.

The rules of the contest were as follows: The cattle must be owned at least 60 days. They could be either raised or bought. They could be any weight or age. The contest began April 1 and closed November 30. The cattle were to be appraised at the beginning of the contest by the committee in charge. If they were not sold by the end of the contest they were to be appraised again. They could be fed or handled any way their owner desired.

The winners were those who made the most profit per steer, first, second, and third places receiving 50 per cent, 30 per cent, and 20 per cent of the prize money respectively.

This contest created much interest among beef-cattle producers. It also caused more men to keep records. Several types of cattle were used, ranging from calves to mature steers.

In 1929 seventeen farmers competed. The contest was won that year by Chas. Meacham of Morganfield with a drove of Shorthorn baby-beef calves. These calves were fed grain on grass in early spring and again from July 1 until they were sold in November at the Fat Stock Show in Louisville. They made a net profit of $30 per calf during the period of the contest. The net sale price of the calves as baby beeves was $126.96 per head.

In 1930 there were 23 entries with 18 completions. Due to the drouth and falling beef cattle prices it was very difficult to make a profit that year. The winning drove made a net profit of $19.59 per steer, even though they were fed on a minus margin of 33 cents. The winning drove both years demonstrated that calves or choice light steers made profitable use of grain fed them on pasture.

Each year a field day or tour was held. These meetings were well attended by beef-cattle men from nearby counties. Many ideas in beef production were gained by those present.

The following table gives a summary of the contest for 1930.

BEEF-ON-GRASS CONTEST 1930

Owner	No. of head	Days Owned	Final weight	Total gain	Ave. daily gain	Cost per steer		Cost per cwt. gain	Margin	Net profit per steer
						Feed	Pasture			
1	38	234	1,135	470	2.00	17.30	6.00	4.96	- .33	19.59
2	35	234	1,100	500	2.13	10.25	7.56	4.47	-1.75	15.33
3	19	60	741	135	2.26	6.20	2.00	6.10	.25	9.81
4	20	207	965	483	2.33	44.39	5.00	10.23	.83	9.32
5	38	228	965	367	1.61	0	7.50	2.04	-2.61	8.49
6	31	180	900	352	1.95	12.67	6.00	3.60	-1.91	8.43
7	40	133	966	258	1.93	23.62	4.30	10.83	.15	4.44
8	23	213	936	367	1.72	5.48	7.00	3.40	-2.47	.92
9	25	196	1,069	341	1.74	14.44	6.50	6.13	-2.01	.66
10	34	128	1,161	357	2.79	30.51	4.25	10.26	-2.41	-3.49
11	28	41	890	66	1.61	3.11	1.33	6.71	-1.25	-3.92
12	25	212	1,062	422	2.00	26.25	7.00	7.88	-1.59	-4.60
13	22	242	758	356	1.47	14.40	8.00	6.35	-3.33	-8.35
14	20	61	865	166	2.72	5.25	2.00	4.36	-1.50	-8.89
15	40	135	791	193	1.00	.51	6.50	3.63	-3.33	-11.48
16	30	120	724	115	0.95	8.10	4.00	10.54	-2.39	-12.84
17	25	64	704	126	2.00	6.00	2.13	6.45	-2.75	-13.38
18	32	135	1,120	182	1.39	15.32	4.32	10.44	-1.76	-18.31
AVE.	29.1	160.1	937.3	292.3	1.86	13.54	5.08	6.57	-1.67	-.45

A CALIFORNIA JUDGING DEMONSTRATION

A cattlemen's field day was conducted again this year in Humboldt County with the Extension Service cooperating with the California Cattlemen's Association. This year the judging demonstration was enlarged to include the judging of range breeding cows for type and conformation, as evidenced by the offspring as a result of breeding the cows to high-class purebred range sires. Cards were mimeographed by the county agent's office embracing one of the pens arranged for the judging contest and this information was submitted to the stockmen by the county agent, the stockmen taking the cards and judging the different classes of range stock in the contest. Two pens of breeding cows with calves were judged for type and conformation, four pens of steers for type, conformation and quality for market, one pen of yearling Hereford steers for the block. A total of 56 stockmen took part in the demonstration. The assistant manager of the Western Cattle Marketing Association acted as final judge in this event. The farm advisor discussed the value of type and conformation and the results of breeding good cows to purebred bulls of good type. The purpose of these demonstrations has been to bring to the attention of the stockmen the necessary rigid culling of breeding cows and the use of good type purebred range sires.

-- From California Annual Report, 1930.

SCIENCE AND MODERN LIFE

Somebody has said that "What we call the process of reasoning is merely the process of rearranging one's prejudices," and we admit the truth of this assertion when we say, as we so often do, "Oh, yes, I understand that is the excuse, but what is, after all, the reason?" Indeed, there is no question but that a large part of what we call reasoning is in fact simply the rearranging of prejudices. In so far, for example, as we are Republicans, or Democrats, or Presbyterians, or Catholics, or Mohammedans, or prohibitionists, because our fathers bore those brands, and many of us will be admitted by our acquaintances, at least, to have no other real grounds for our labels, our so-called reasonings on these subjects certainly consist in nothing more than the rearrangement of our prejudices. The lawyer who takes a case first and develops his argument later, is obviously only rearranging his preconceptions.

— Robert A. Millikan in "Science and the New Civilization."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"The Missouri Plan of Growing Thrifty Pigs" by J. W. Burch - Missouri Extension Service Circular No. 259.

"Swine Performance Record Litter Comparisons" by Culbertson, Evvard, Kildee, and Helser - Iowa Experiment Station Bulletin No. 277.

"Care and Management of Hogs in Louisiana" by LaCroix and Francioni - Louisiana Extension Service Circular No. 144.

"Swine Feeding Experiments" by W. L. Robison - Ohio Experiment Station Special Circular No. 32.

"Market Hog and Ton-Litter Projects for 4-H Club Members" by W. W. Shay - North Carolina Extension Service Circular No. 181.

"The Wisconsin Self-Feeder for Hogs" by G. Bohstedt - Wisconsin Experiment Station Bulletin No. 419.

"Sex and Age as Factors in Cattle Feeding" by Gramlich and Thalman - Nebraska Experiment Station Bulletin No. 252.

"Cattle Ranch Organization and Management in Western South Dakota" by M. B. Johnson - South Dakota Experiment Station Bulletin No. 255.

"Rations for Fattening Range Calves in Arizona" by E. B. Stanley - Arizona Experiment Station Bulletin No. 137.

"Comparison of Roughages for Finishing Steers" by D. S. Buchanan - Mississippi Experiment Station Bulletin No. 278.

"Grinding Shelled Corn, Barley and Alfalfa Hay - Feeding Cane Molasses to Fattening Cattle - Peat Land Hay as Roughage for Cattle" by W. H. Peters - Minnesota Experiment Station Bulletin No. 274.

"Feedlot Fattening Rations for Cattle" by Morton, Maynard, and Osland - Colorado Experiment Station Press Bulletin No. 74.

"Producing Native Lambs - The Value of Pasture" by Claude Harper - Purdue (Indiana) Experiment Station Bulletin No. 344.

"Growing and Marketing Iowa Wool" by C. W. McDonald - Iowa Extension Service Bulletin No. 169.

"Lamb Production in Michigan" by D. H. LaVoi - Michigan Extension Service Bulletin No. 113.

"The Missouri Plan of Sheep Improvement" by J. W. Burch - Missouri Extension Service Circular No. 263.

"Fattening Western Lambs - Type Test" by Claude Harper - Purdue (Indiana) Experiment Station Bulletin No. 343.

"Feedlot Fattening Rations for Lambs" by Morton, Maynard, and Osland - Colorado Experiment Station Press Bulletin No. 73.

"Range Sheep and Wool in the Seventeen Western States" by Hultz and Hill - a book published by John Wiley and Sons, New York City.

"Horse Nose Flies Can be Controlled" by Butcher and Stouder - Iowa Extension Service Bulletin No. 167.

"The Artificial Reseeding of New Mexico Ranges" by C. P. Wilson - New Mexico Experiment Station Bulletin No. 189.

"Utilizing the Soybean Crop in Livestock Feeding" by Rusk and others - Illinois Experiment Station Circular No. 369.

"The Trench Silo" by Grimes and Nichols - Alabama Experiment Station Circular No. 59.

NEW YORK'S RECORD
IN 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB ENROLLMENTS

Year	Baby Beef	Sheep	Swine
1927	8	233	289
1928	24	208	251
1929	28	347	292
1930	32	332	320